

GPA PROGRAM FAQ'S

What does GPA stand for?

Grassroots Policy Advocate/Grassroots Political Activist

What is the mission of the GPA Program?

To increase grassroots activity in policy advocacy and political action. This is a statewide program that is governed by IPACE and executed at the region level.

What expectations does IPACE have from the GPAs?

- To recruit and organize members to be active in policy advocacy and political action.
- Advocate for IEA's Education Party, promoting bipartisan support.
- Once an organizational position is taken, active support for this policy or political position is expected. The GPA must work with the Region Chair, UniServ Director and the IEA lobbyist to accomplish goals.
- Work with and coordinate your efforts with region and state components and strategies.
- Attend at least three trainings/meetings – GPAs must attend the kick-off training.
- Attend Region Council Meetings.

Miscellaneous GPA items:

- GPAs are paid a stipend of \$1000 (in two pay periods - \$500 each).
- GPAs are allowed an expense account of \$900 to execute GPA activities.
- GPAs must be IEA members and IPACE contributors.
- Region chairs cannot serve as GPAs.

What are the GPA-IPACE statewide goals?

- **Grassroots Planning:** Write Region Plan with Region Chair, UniServ Director and GR staff. This plan should outline how you and the region are going to meet the expectations of the GPA program including state and region goals.
- **Grassroots Recruitment & Organizing:** Build an IEA GO Team by recruiting at least six members, targeting those who have been teachers or school employees 15 years or less.
- **Grassroots Listening:** Conduct an IEA Listening Session focusing on school employees with 15 years or less experience.
- **Grassroots Action:** Execute activities outlined in GPA Region Plan.

What is a Region Plan and how is it developed?

The Region Plan should outline how the GPA and the region are going to meet the GPA program's specific goals. The plan should also include any other region activities designed to enhance political advocacy and political action. The region plan should include a strategy for success, a timeline/calendar and assessment tools to document progress. The Region Plan is a written document developed in a collaborative manner by the GPA, the Region Chair, the UniServ Director and an IEA lobbyist.

The GPA Program has an assessment component in place. We believe that this allows an opportunity to review, assess or reassess the Region Plan, and help enhance the GPA's relationship with their Region Chair and UniServ Director.

A meeting should be scheduled to assess the progress of the Region Plan and review the GPA's regional activities. Minimally, this meeting should include the Region Chair, UD and GPA – others may be added, as determined by the region.

What is an IEA GO – Team?

GO stands for Grassroots Organizers. This is the Team that GPAs are asked to recruit to help build grassroots activity in your region. Building teams increases our number of activists and helps us reach our mission of increasing grassroots activity in policy advocacy and political action. GPAs should target their recruitment efforts toward members with 15 years or less experience and try to reach a minimum goal of six team members. Members with more experience are not excluded, and teams may be larger than six members.

What is a Listening Session?

It is an informal gathering of newer, younger IEA members to get acquainted, share experiences and concerns.

What kind of activities could the region and the GPA consider planning?

Legislative relationship building

- school tour with a legislator
- meeting at the legislator's office
- invite legislator to attend a region or local meeting or social event

Election – campaign activities

- Legislative
- Referendum & School Board
- Phone banks and precinct walks

Many other options exist. Discuss what works best in your region and consult your lobbyist for ideas.

What skills are required for a good GPA?

- This is an organizing position. GPAs should have a positive attitude about the association and believe in the importance of getting involved in policy advocacy and political action. GPAs should be organized, outgoing and friendly, and have strong communications skills.